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Investigations: *The Sprague showdown*

In the dispute between Rep. Henry B. Gonzales (D., Tex.), chairman of the House Committee on Assassinations, and Richard Sprague, the committee's chief counsel, somebody had to resign. On Wednesday, after accusing members of his committee of trying to usurp his powers, Gonzales did.

According to many House Democrats, Gonzales' resignation, which has not been officially accepted, may mean the end of the House investigation into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

In his letter, Gonzales said Sprague, a former Philadelphia first assistant district attorney, was "an unscrupulous individual, an unconscionable scoundrel." Gonzales tried to fire Sprague Feb. 10, but the 11 other members of the committee advised Sprague to ignore him.